



For Immediate Release
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Indiana Historical Society Seeks Volunteers for History Train

Indianapolis – Volunteers are needed to help history hit the rails once again this fall when the Indiana Historical Society, in a unique collaboration with The Indiana Rail Road Company, launches a southern run of the Indiana History Train and its *Faces of the Civil War* exhibition. The train will make stops in five southern Indiana communities, beginning Sept. 28, 2006 and continuing through Oct. 28.

Scheduled History Train stops include Connersville (Sept. 28-30), Terre Haute (Oct. 5-7), Jasper (Oct. 12-14), Switz City (Oct. 19-21) and Columbus (October 26-28). In the past two years, the History Train has welcomed more than 18,000 visitors at four northern Indiana and five southern Indiana communities. It is free and open to the public 9 a.m.-6 p.m. during all days of operation.

The train, consisting of three 65-foot renovated Amtrak freight cars, features a free traveling exhibition, *Faces of the Civil War* (designed by the Indiana Historical Society's exhibitions staff), a documentary about the effect of the pre-Civil War years on Indiana and its citizens, and other related activities. At temporary "depots" set up at each venue, visitors can see performances by re-enactors, purchase Civil War-related items, participate in hands-on activities and simply enjoy a unique experience.

Members of the community are invited to assist with many aspects of the History Train, including the greeting and directing of patrons as well as the support of visitor activities on the train and in the "depot." Volunteers will receive a History Train T-shirt, light refreshments, and the chance to share and experience Hoosier History in a very unique way.

Shifts are three hours in length, and several volunteers are needed for each time period. High school students ages 16 and older as well as college students are welcome to participate. For more information on how to volunteer, download the form at www.indianahistory.org/historytrain/volunteer.html or contact Mike Kraft at (317) 233-9559 or mkraft@indianahistory.org. The Indiana Historical Society can also be reached toll-free at (800) 447-1830.

The Indiana History Train is a five-year commitment on behalf of the Indiana Historical Society and The Indiana Rail Road Company. During that time, the train will alternate traveling north and south throughout Indiana. The History Train is sponsored by Dorel Juvenile Group and Cosco Home and Office Products and is made possible in part by a gift from the Lilly Endowment Inc. and a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: "great ideas brought to life."

The Indiana Rail Road Company is a 500-mile regional freight railroad, hauling some 170,000 carloads of freight – more than 15 million tons of goods annually. The railroad carries traffic between Chicago, Louisville, Indianapolis, and Newton, Ill., with connections to major western and southern carriers. Indiana Rail Road was founded in 1986 and maintains headquarters in Indianapolis. Principal products carried include coal, petroleum coke, grain, lumber, appliances, metals, sugar, corn sweeteners, petroleum products, plastics and chemicals. The company employs approximately 170 people in Indiana and Illinois and operates a fleet of nearly 50 locomotives. For more information, visit www.inrd.com.

Since 1830, the Indiana Historical Society has been Indiana's Storyteller™, connecting people to the past by collecting, preserving, interpreting and disseminating Indiana history. The independent, nonprofit organization also publishes books and periodicals; sponsors teacher workshops; provides youth, adult and family programming; assists local historical groups throughout the state; and maintains one of the world's largest collections of material on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest. The Indiana Historical Society is one of the oldest historical societies in the United States, and one of the largest with more than 10,000 members. The Society opened its 165,000-square-foot headquarters, the Indiana History Center, in downtown Indianapolis in July 1999. (www.indianahistory.org)

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